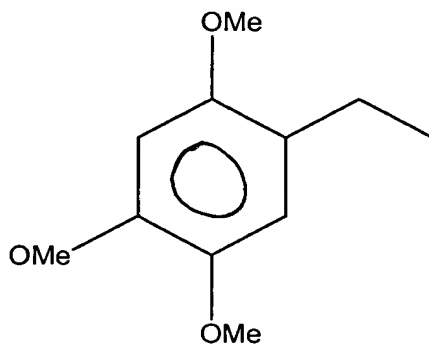


IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently amended). A process for the preparation of 1-Propyl-2,4,5-trimethoxybenzene of the formula I from crude calamus oil from a tetraploid or hexaploid *Acorus calamus* wherein said crude calamus oil contains alpha, beta and gamma asarone



the process comprising the steps of:

- (a) mixing crude calamus oil and a solvent selected from the group consisting of ethanol, methanol, THF, DCM, toluene and chloroform to prepare a solution;
- (b) hydrogenating the solution obtained in step (a) in the presence of a catalyst selected from the group consisting of Pd/C, Pt, Pd(OH)₂, Raney nickel and ammonium formate; at a pressure in the range of 10-40 psi hydrogen gas and at a temperature in the range of 15-40°C;
- (c) filtering the catalyst and removing the solvent under reduced pressure in the range of 10-100 mm Hg; and

- (d) separating the 1-Propyl-2,4,5-trimethoxybenzene of the formula I from the calamus oil by chromatography on a silica gel column by using an eluent to obtain 1-Propyl-2,4,5-trimethoxybenzene of the formula I in liquid form with 85-97% purity.

Claim 2 (Original). A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the catalyst comprises 5-10% Pd/C.

Claim 3. (Cancel).

Claim 4. (Previously presented). A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the toxicity of the hydrogenated calamus oil is two times less than that of the starting calamus oil.

Claim 5. (Original). A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reduced calamus oil has a novel honey and roses aroma.

Claim 6. (Original). A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the 1-Propyl-2,4,5-trimethoxybenzene obtained has a novel sweet, ylang, slightly spicy and fruity aroma.

Claim 7 (Previously presented). A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the calamus oil is extracted from the asarone rich plants selected from the group consisting of *Asarum europaeum*, *Crowea angustifolia* and *Heterotropa yakusimensis*.

Claims 8-12 (Cancelled)